



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

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February 20, 1997

David J. Guy  
California Farm Bureau  
1601 Exposition Boulevard, FB3  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear David:

Thank you for your comments regarding water transfers and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. As you indicate, water transfers will be an important part of our water future, there are some important issues to be resolved, and much of the discussion will take place in forums other than CALFED and BDAC.

Your letter stresses that transfers are no substitute for storage. The alternatives reflect that concept. A range of storage facilities north of the Delta, in the Delta itself, as well as south of the Delta are being considered. As you know, we are also examining opportunities to facilitate transfers and develop needed assurances that transfers do not impose undue impacts. Some of our assurances will be based on the Governor's five criteria for water transfers, which we have discussed at BDAC meetings.

There has been concern that we initially included discussion of water transfers with our discussion of agricultural water conservation in the Water Use Efficiency Work Group. Although I believe that this work group is an appropriate forum to begin our discussion of the policy aspects of transfers, we have responded to concerns by separating our discussions and written materials on transfers from those regarding physical efficiency measures such as water conservation. As you recognize in your letter, transfers offer us an opportunity to allow water users to voluntarily increase the economic efficiency of water use in California.

Regarding land conversion, our approach has evolved considerably over time. At this point we are not considering the type of land retirement program described in early draft alternatives, under which CALFED agencies might have purchased hundreds of thousands of acres. However, we expect that future water transfers, particularly during droughts, may involve voluntary land fallowing.

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**CALFED Agencies**

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**California**

The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

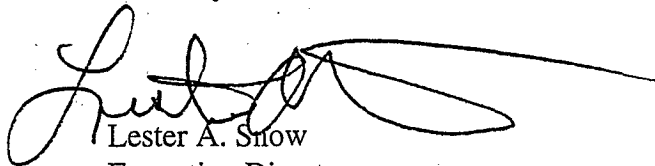
**Federal**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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The policy discussions regarding transfers will take place in a number of forums., including deliberations on Preprint SB 15. I expect that the role of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in these discussions will be two fold. First, we will examine the ways the CALFED agencies can do a better job of facilitating transfers. Second, we will need to develop assurances that must be in place before the CALFED Bay-Delta Program reduces conveyance constraints and increases the state's flexibility to transfer water. Legislation eventually may be one way to provide these assurances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director